

State Disaster Unit Treks To Kentucky

By Tim Nicholas
The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit trekked 640 miles to Frankfort, Ky., for its shakedown cruise.

The unit was invited by the Kentucky Baptist Convention to help in relief operations after extensive flooding put about 1,000 homes in Frankfort under water.

Besides Franklin County, where Frankfort is located, President Carter declared 16 more counties in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana as disaster areas, able to receive federal assistance.

The Mississippi unit, manned by volunteers, operated a mass feeding kitchen in one of the hardest hit areas of the capitol city. Set up in the driveway of Bellepoint Baptist Church, the unit was just across the street from the Kentucky River which over a week ago overran its banks.

More than 600 homes in the Bellepoint area alone had been under water.

Baptist volunteers from Mississippi fed an estimated 1,000 hot meals a day from Saturday, Dec. 16 to Dec. 19, when they were expected to return to Mississippi.

Most of the feeding was done by delivery to the homes where residents were attempting to "mud out." The American Red Cross made two vans available to the unit for neighborhood delivery of food.

Don Cherry, pastor of Bellepoint Baptist Church which was virtually undamaged except for water in the basement, took his church van with volunteers and scouted the Bellepoint neighborhood to pass out meals, while

the Mississippi crew took three other vehicles to other points in the city.

This was the first operation of the unit which was equipped totally by volunteer labor and completed only a month ago. The unit consists of a 40-foot moving van with outdoor feeding kitchen, fresh water tanks, and limited

first aid and other emergency supplies. It can operate on its own power source. A four-wheeled 15-passenger van and power boat accompanied the unit.

The operation began with an invitation Dec. 13 from Franklin Owen, executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to help in the relief efforts. Kentucky Baptists have no disaster relief unit.

Rusty Griffin, disaster relief coordinator for Mississippi Baptists and Tim Nicholas of the Baptist Record were flown by Sammy Platt of Columbus to Frankfort from Jackson on Dec. 14, shortly before the unit left Jackson. Griffin conferred with Red Cross headquarters staff in Frankfort and together they determined the best set up place would be at Bellepoint Baptist Church, almost in downtown Frankfort.

Other disaster relief team members from Mississippi included Jimmy Smith, minister of activities at Jackson's Alta Woods Baptist Church, who drove the van most of the way from Jackson, Omega Shamblin, (Continued on page 3)



Some of the disaster team members confer over a Frankfort city map before taking mobile feeding units out. Left to right are Frank Simmons, Dan West, and Rusty Griffin.

Where Is The Magic?

By Myra Morgan, Jackson
Each year we listen while someone says "Christmas isn't what it used to be. There's so much commercialism, too much money spent, things move too fast to enjoy the season."

I thought it, too, this year, and as I

sat looking at our Christmas tree the thought occurred that "magic" was missing in our spirits. It was almost like magic to see that simple little tree turned into a thing of beauty with a box of lights, a few icicles, and ornaments the children had made over the years.

Christmas memories can do strange things to us; and if we let them, those memories can be magic to our hearts.

Reach as far back as memory will allow to the first toy you remember Santa Claus bringing. I did! It was a little three-inch Indian doll that walked by itself down a slanted board. Oh, it was magic! That little piece of wood and felt actually walked!

Then there's the time the serious Christmases begin — when you begin to grow up and Santa doesn't come any more. Maybe it just happened and so gradually that you didn't notice, or maybe you were disappointed like I was — until Christmas morning when the gifts were grown-up gifts. Again — that special Christmas magic.

As we grow older, the magic changes. The spiritual part of Christmas becomes more real. The feeling we have for others, our concern for those in need, and the warmth of family is more prevalent than the gifts we receive. The magic changes again.

There's magic in the stores as we shop for those we love, and as we share the excitement of other shoppers and listen to the Salvation Army bells ring.

There's magic in the eyes of that person at a rest home as she watches a children's choir sing "Away In A Manger."

There's magic in the home of a not-so-well-off family we did something for that they didn't expect.

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Santa Claus joins the puppet choir as youngsters at the Village perform numbers from their Christmas Sparkles at the Village program. More Photos on Page 2.

tunity of participating, and the gifts began to pour in.

Taylor said he hoped that the idea would take hold around the state and some church would continue the endeavor each year.

It is not an easy project, he said; but it proved to be a gratifying one. The

committees met for hours in planning in addition to the trip to Jackson for information. The entire project had been cleared with Executive Director Paul Nunnery in advance.

"There is no way except by the leadership of the Lord that we could have accomplished this," Taylor observed.



Under the kitchen tarp, on a drizzly Saturday, flood victims and relief workers huddle for a hot meal provided by the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Unit.

The Baptist Record

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Christmas Greetings From The Staff

The staff of the Baptist Record takes this opportunity to wish to every one who reads these lines a meaningful and joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with anticipation and accomplishment. It has been a privilege and a delight to have served Mississippi Baptists as their official journal during this year, and we look forward eagerly to a continuation of that service during the year that is almost upon us.

In accordance with our regular practice and our arrangement with the Postal Service through our second-class mailing permit, there will be no issue next week. So may the Christ of Christmas reign supreme in the hearts of all of us during this holiday season and on through the New Year.

Don McGregor
Tim Nicholas
Anne McWilliams
Evelyn Keyes
Florence Larrimore

Nell Vaughn Burnett
Betty Anne Bailey
Renee Walley
Leonard Thompson

Youth Evangelism Meeting Features Witness Training

The 1978 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference takes place Dec. 28-29 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson.

The conference, sponsored by the state convention's Evangelism Department will feature Christian entertainment and special training in witnessing, both in motivation and in technique.

A drama and puppet ministry group from Broadmoor will do a theme interpretation. Theme of the meeting is "Right Thinking Produces Right Living."

Music will be provided by a number



Williams Poole

of groups and individuals including Mississippi Baptist church youth groups, including FBC, Crystal Springs; FBC, Gulfport; Tate Street, Corinth; FBC, Kosciusko; and Broadmoor, Jackson.

Kay Dekalb and the singing Cruse Family will be a part of the entertainment on the program.

(Continued on Page 5)

Foundation Earnings Represent Record Yield

Earnings of \$413,400 for 1978 on funds held in trust by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation were reported during the annual meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The trustees were told that this figure represented a yield on investments of 7.76 per cent, which is a new record.

The earning figure for 1978 was an increase of \$65,603 over the previous year, according to Harold T. Kitchings, executive secretary. Capital gains were given as \$11,196.67, and addition to principal was \$383,503.75. The corpus of funds administered by the Foundation rose to a new high of \$5,619,412, Kitchings said.

Fifty per cent of the earnings went to support Christian education, Kitchings noted. Of this amount, some

\$200,000 went to the college related to Mississippi Baptists.

In addition, during 1978 at least 80 scholarships were given Mississippi students in Southern Baptist seminaries, he said.

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(Continued on page 2)

Mississippi Winner Of Sunday School Award

The Mississippi Baptist Convention was the winner of one of six growth awards presented by the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department during the annual Sunday School program planning meeting here.

Mississippi led all state conventions in the number of associational Sunday School growth campaigns conducted, with a total of 36.

Bryant M. Cummings, director of the Mississippi Sunday School department, accepted the Arthur Flake Award from Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department. The award is named after Flake, the originator of the growth campaign idea and a Southern Baptist pioneer in Sunday School growth.

In the photo, Bryant Cummings, seated, shows the award to members of his department staff. Left to right, they are Billy Hudgens, Larry Salter, Judd Allen, and Mose Dangerfield.





Rick Munn, minister of music at First Church, Grenada, in checked shirt at left, leads the children of Baptist Children's

Village and visitors in action songs during the Christmas party at the Village hosted by the church choir.

Howard Payne Names Harris Vice-President

Robert L. Brooks, president of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, has announced the appointment of S. L. Harris, president of Clarke College, Newton, Miss. to the position of vice-president for student affairs. Harris has also been named professor of Sociology and will teach on a limited basis. He will assume his new duties on Jan. 15.

Howard Payne University is owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It was established in 1889 and is located 140 miles southwest of Fort Worth. Approximately 1,500 students are enrolled.

As vice-president of student affairs, Harris will coordinate all non-academic student services of the university. He will be assisted by a full-time staff of six people. Howard Payne is the alma mater of both Harris and Mrs. Harris, and their daughter Paula is a senior there now.



A sidelight unplanned by the church during the Christmas party was a group sing around the piano.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — Canon Walter D. Dennis of the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York said special strategy must be developed to "help swing" churches and minorities in favor of laws to legalize marijuana.



Order Of Business Committee

The Committee on Order of Business is already at work on the 1979 Mississippi Baptist Convention program. At the meeting left to right are Bill Baker, pastor, First Church, Clinton; Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Louis Smith, vice chairman, pastor, First Church, Canton; Graham Smith, chairman, minister of music, Temple Church, Hattiesburg; Charles Stubblefield, pastor, Ecru Church; James Yates, secretary, pastor, First Church, Yazoo City; and Macklyn Hubbell, pastor, First Church, Cleveland.



Kermit King Leads Conference.

Children's Bible Drills Ahead

How many Baptists know Isaiah 26:3? Who can recite the books of the New Testament in order?

Hundreds of Mississippi Baptist children and youths will be able to recite these and more this next spring and will be able to show they know more in the children and youth Bible Drills for 1979.

Bible Drill Clinics were held last week in a number of Mississippi churches for training of adult leaders who will teach the drill work to the children and youths.

Kermit King, director of the Mississippi Baptist Church Training Department led the session at First Baptist Church, Grenada (see photo). 14 people from all over the association came for the training.

King outlined the various skills involved in the drills including a quotation drill, completion drill, book drill, and key passage drill.

"We will do anything we can to make

it possible for a boy or girl to participate," said King who explained that handicapped children have the same opportunity to participate as anyone else. Arrangements can be made for children with any handicap to participate.

King said that in teaching the children, begin with the books of the Bible. He said that when they get into scripture memorization in Church Training, "there will be a parting," and not every child will wish to participate further. He suggested holding sessions for the drills during an overnight party, or at a lock-in at the church where several hours could be given to the work.

The Children's Bible Drill is planned for children 9-11 years old or in grades 4-6. The youth drill is open to all youth, but the offered trips for winners to Ridgecrest and Glorieta are only available to youth, 12-14 years old.

Purpose of the drill is to increase

each participant's knowledge of God's Word and to lead him or her in the development of skill in the effective handling of the Bible.

The state Church Training staff is available to any church or association for training of leaders for the Bible drills.

State finals for the drills will be April 30 at Calvary, Tupelo; May 1 at First, Winona; May 3 at Temple, Hattiesburg; and May 4 at Alta Woods, Jackson.

Selection tournament for the youth Bible drills will be May 12 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

Last year 371 youths and 502 children participated in the Bible drills in Mississippi.

King lamented the fact that more do not participate. "One of the greatest tragedies is that boys and girls are being kept from the advantages of this drill by adults who will not spend the time to enlist them," he said.

Central Hills Retreat Pool Contract Signed

A contract for the construction of the swimming pool at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko has been awarded Commercial Pool Specialists Inc. of Jackson.

The construction will cost \$91,400. The owner of Commercial Pool Specialists is Larry Draughn.

The pool will be olympic sized, 25 meters long with five lanes. Work on the pool should begin immediately, according to Levon Moore, Kosciusko, chairman of the Central Hills Baptist Retreat Development Committee. The contract was awarded Commercial Pool Specialists during a meeting of the development committee recently. The committee heard from Architect Richard Dean of Dean and Dean that bid documents for the camp center building and two bath houses at the retreat are now on the market and that a target date for the opening of bids is mid January.

Moore indicated that work is nearing completion on the Lagoon and recreation field at the retreat and that work on the curb and gutter for the parking lot is well under way.

Dean estimated that the construction cost on the camp center building will be about \$350,000 and that the cost of the two bath houses will be \$40,000 each.

The committee has been given a ceiling of \$850,000 for the development of

the retreat. Some of the work is expected to be done by volunteer labor, such as building the platforms for the tents.

The retreat grounds will be used for Royal Ambassador camping during the summer of 1979. Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department for Mississippi Baptists, said.

Foundation Earnings Represent Record Yield

(Continued from Page 1)

ora was elected president of the Board of Trustees. J. W. Barfield, owner of Barfield Hardware in Jackson, was elected vice-president. Aubrey L. Boone, president of the Bank of Winona, was named chairman of the Executive Committee of the Foundation. Elected as additional members of the Executive Committee were E. L. Herring, a retired business administrator of Jackson, and Charles Lofton of Brookhaven, a partner of Lofton's of Brookhaven.

The Executive Committee also acts as the investment committee for the Foundation, Kitchings pointed out. The men elected are chosen for their expertise in investments, he said.

Since 1975 the corpus administered by the Foundation has grown from \$4.2 million to \$5.619 million. At this point the Foundation serves as the principal repository for the endowment funds for three institutions related to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Sources of gifts placed in trust with the Foundation are individuals, families, churches, and institutions, Kitchings noted. These funds are invested and the proceeds used as the donor determines.

Of the \$413,400 earned in 1978, at least 40 per cent went to the support of foreign, home, and state missions and the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village. The remaining 10 per cent went to other causes "which represent people in service for the Lord," Kitchings said.

During their meeting the trustees voted to increase the Amanda Kelly Scholarship Fund from \$7,700 to \$10,000. The additional \$2,300 came from interest earned by the Foundation on certain undesignated funds. The Amanda Kelly Scholarship Fund is named in memory of Mrs. Earl Kelly, wife of the executive secretary-

her life to Christ and his church. "I had been a Christian the most of my life" she says, "but the Lord and his church had never really been first in my life."

With her rededication, Mrs. Bedssole prayed that the Lord would give her a real challenge. Then a pastor friend suggested she write letters of congratulation to new parents and invite

them to church.

That was more than three years ago. Since then, more than 5,000 letters have gone out, and scores of new parents have been won to Christ by telephone calls that followed the letters. Mrs. Bedssole reports. And there have been countless other conversions and many rededications.

At least seven Baptist churches in the Texarkana area are now involved in the Baby Ministry, which has spread to several other states and to at least two foreign countries, New Zealand and South Korea.

Since most babies are born in hospitals and all births are a part of the public record, keeping up with the new arrivals is just a matter of reading the birth announcements column in the daily newspaper.

Mrs. Bedssole uses specially designed letterheads: blue for letters going to parents of a male child and pink for girls.

A baby's picture is on the envelopes

Village Christmas Party

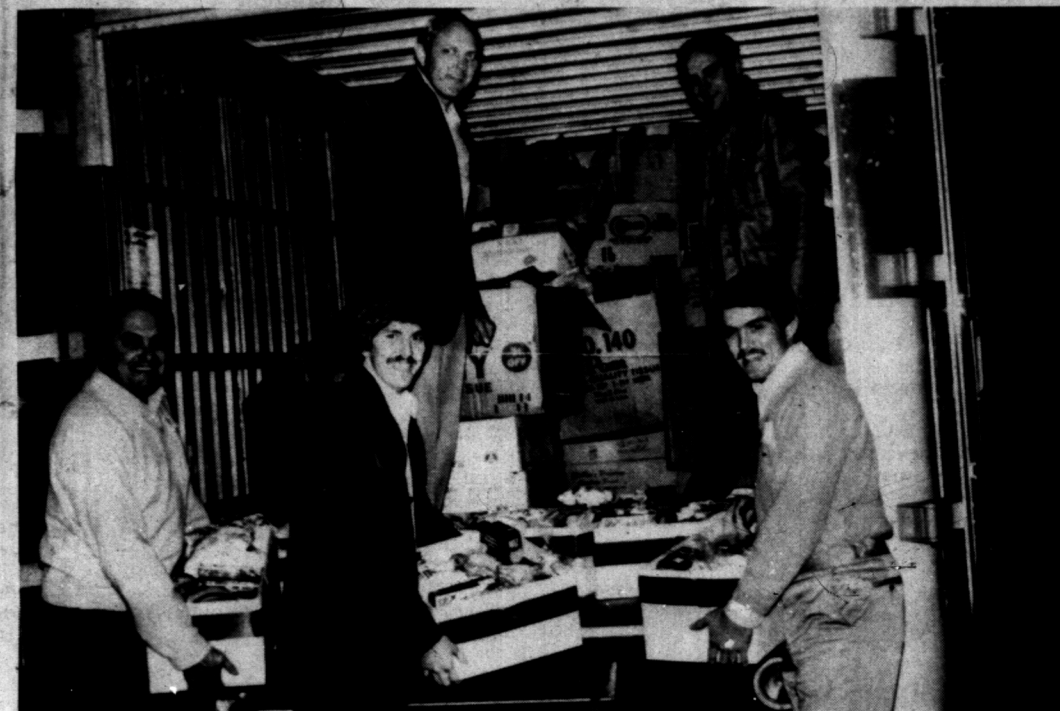
Photos

By

Don

McGregor

Diane Lee, center, helps one of her cottage mates enjoy the party. The younger girl is Dawn Herrington.



The U-Haul truck is unloaded at the Children's Village. In the truck are Hiram Walters, left, and Hayes Branscome, president of the choir. On the ground, left to right, are Pastor John Lee Taylor, Mark White, and Keith Canterbury.

Her Ministry Helps Evangelize New Parents

By Erwin L. McDonald

TEXARKANA, Texas (BP) — A Texarkana housewife combines public relations with evangelism in a new outreach effort she calls "the Baby Ministry."

It started when middle-aged Mary Louise Bedssole decided she was "just a nominal Christian" and rededicated

and letterheads. Special sets of the stationery are printed for each participating church, carrying the name of the pastor and of Mrs. Bedssole as heading the Baby Ministry.

Each letter is carefully typed, using the stationery of the participating church nearest the new parent, and is signed by that pastor. Since it's assumed that the letter will be preserved as an entry in the baby book of the new arrival, one requirement is that the typing be perfect, with no strike-throughs or erasures.

Mrs. Bedssole's husband, a retired U. S. Marine, backs her in this time-consuming ministry. "Without Ted's cooperation I wouldn't be able to carry on," she says. "You can't imagine how many times I serve him Kentucky Fried Chicken or hamburgers and Dairy Queen!"

(Erwin L. McDonald is editor emeritus of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.)



Amanda Kelly Fund

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation voted to increase the Amanda Kelly Scholarship Fund from \$7,700.00 to \$10,000.00. A. L. Boone, chairman of the Executive Committee, made the presentation. Boone's personal relationship to Kelly spans a quarter of a century, dating back to the time when Kelly began his ministry as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs.



New Foundation Officers

The new officers of the Foundation are pictured left to right. Harold T. Kitchings, executive secretary; Aubrey L. Boone, chairman, Executive Committee; E. L. Herring, member, Executive Committee; J. W. Barfield, vice-president, Board of Trustees; Charles Lofton, member, Executive Committee; and Grady Doss, president, Board of Trustees.

New Plan Honors Fastest Growing

Beginning in October 1979, the fastest growing Sunday Schools in the Southern Baptist Convention will be recognized at annual associational meetings, annual state conventions, and at Ridgecrest and Glorieta conference centers.

Part of the recognition plan will be an expense-paid trip to Ridgecrest or Glorieta for the pastor or Sunday School director of the four Southern Baptist churches with the fastest growing Sunday Schools.

The four churches will include one from each of the following categories:

1. The Sunday School having the largest numerical increase in enrollment during the church year.
2. The Sunday School having the largest percentage increase in enrollment during the church year.
3. The Sunday School having the largest numerical increase in average attendance over the previous year.
4. The Sunday School having the largest percentage increase in average attendance over the previous year.

Awards for the fastest growing Sunday Schools will be given annually. They are based upon the October through September church year with data collected from the Uniform Church Letter that is submitted to the association in which the church is a member.

In order for a church to be eligible for recognition it will:

1. Have had a twelve month Sunday School enrollment and attendance record to the year for which it is recognized.
2. Be a cooperating church in the association and Southern Baptist Convention.
3. Submit one of the growth information forms included in this brochure to its association immediately after the last Sunday in September. Information provided should correspond with the official church letter to the association.

Selection Procedure
The selection procedure depends on and begins with the local Baptist Association. State and convention awards are limited to churches that receive awards from the association.

Step 1. Each association will select churches to receive the four awards listed above. The names of these four churches and their statistical data will then be forwarded to the state Sunday School director by October 5. The association will recognize its four winners during the Sunday School report at its annual meeting.

Step 2. Each state convention will select churches to receive the four state awards. The names of these churches and their statistical data will then be forwarded to the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board by November 1. The state will recognize its four winners during the Sunday School report at its annual convention.

Step 3. The Sunday School Department will select four churches to receive national recognition. These churches will be introduced at Ridgecrest and Glorieta, and the pastor or Sunday School director will receive an expense-paid week at one of the Sunday School leadership conferences at Ridgecrest or Glorieta (whichever is closer to his church).

Expenses include transportation to and from the conference center by most direct route, conference registration, room, and board for one person.



Student Day At Christmas

"Claiming My Campus for Christ" is the theme for Student Day at Christmas 1978, an observance held by churches late in December to recognize their college students and give them opportunity to share with the congregation about their spiritual experiences at college — through Baptist Student Union and college church. It is cosponsored by the Mississippi Department of Student Ministries and National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board.

The Missions Task

... Shall Be Added

By John Alexander,
Director

Stewardship Department

One church member, faced with the challenge of his church to give sacrificially, responded by saying, "Nobody is going to look out after me but me." This unfortunate statement reveals either a Biblical illiteracy or a glaring lack of faith in God's promises. It completely overlooks the teaching of Jesus.

"... Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Behold the birds... your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they?... Consider the lilies of the field... even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field... shall he not MUCH MORE clothe you, O ye of little faith?... For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom, and his righteousness; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU" (Matt. 6:25-33).

Our heavenly Father owns all the wealth in this world and in the world to come. It all belongs to his children!

I do not find anywhere in the Bible God promising anything to the unfaithful stewards but forgiveness when he repents.

God wants his children to love and trust him. To these trusting children Paul says, "... for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause... And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and make it grow, to produce a rich harvest from your generosity" (II Cor. 9:7-10).

Christ's faithless followers (if indeed there is such) say, "Nobody is going to look out after me but me." Christ's faithful follower says, "Yes, God is able and will keep his promises to me and out of gratitude to God I will give."

The church member who pushes the promises of God aside to make his own way in the world is making a bad bargain. He is short-changing himself.

Abraham was accounted righteous because he believed God could perform what he had promised. The believing follower of Jesus can give, knowing that a caring heavenly Father stands behind his promise to care for the needs of his obedient children.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Dec. 28-29

Youth Evangelism Conference, Broadmoor Baptist Church,

Jan. 1-7

Jackson, sponsored by the Evangelism Department.
Deacon Emphasis Week, sponsored by Church Administration and Pastoral Ministries

Disaster In Kentucky

(Continued from Page 1)

layman, FBC, Vicksburg; Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian; Dan West, director of missions, Pike Association, McComb; James Smith, pastor, FBC, Houston, and Elmo Bounds, layman from FBC Houston.

The unit, never before driven long distances, lost a tire and had to have the alternator replaced on the overnight haul to Kentucky.

Only one mile from the church, the tractor pulling the unit, broke down, requiring a tow up to the church. Saturday morning the unit began its feeding operations with hot coffee and donuts.

At lunch, from 11 a.m. to nearly 2 p.m., the unit fed approximately 475 hot meals of beef stew, peas, fruit cocktail, rolls, and coffee or punch. Other meals planned included chicken a la king, and chipped beef.

When Griffin, Nicholas, and Platt arrived, the Red Cross operation, headed up in Frankfort by Al Panico of Madison, Miss., handed a car over to their use. And when the unit arrived, offered as many vehicles as necessary to deliver the food to workers cleaning out their homes and to senior citizens stranded without heat.

The cold, drizzly Saturday afternoon dampened spirits, but the rain passed and all who took food from the volunteers appeared grateful. "I don't know who's doing this, but we sure ap-

preciate it," one said. Another resident huddling under the tarp of the outdoor kitchen, commented, "The Lord will surely bless you down the line." Most appeared glad to take a break from their mud sloshed homes to eat a hot meal.

Other denominational groups participating in the relief work included Church of the Brethren which trained volunteer cleanup crews, Seventh Day Adventists which gave out clothing, and the Salvation Army which operated canteens and offered initial housing and hygiene supplies. The Kentucky Council of Churches gave 100 shovels for cleanup.

Baptists from Kentucky turned up to help out, including volunteers from the Bellepoint church, many of whom lost most of their possessions, and volunteers from Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort and First Baptist Church in Winchester 40 miles away.

Governor Julian Carroll of Kentucky strolled into the churchyard Saturday afternoon in the drizzle, giving people encouragement. He walked through the unit and told the volunteers he appreciated their coming.

Off duty firemen from Lexington, working as volunteers in cleanup, heard about the tractor's breakdown and one of their members took the engine apart, determining that it had been damaged by a broken piston which had scored the block. The fire department sent for a tow truck and

promised to have a new engine put in by Tuesday night when the volunteers were planning to head home.

The only known death related to the flooding was next door the church where the Mississippi unit was set up. Just after Sunday morning services where pastor Cherry talked of the Good Samaritans still in the world, members went to see an elderly couple by the church. They found the man slumped over in a chair and the woman in bed. The man was dead and the woman needing medical attention. Griffin, one of the first on the scene, said the indications were that the pilot light had gone out of their gas heater, asphyxiating the couple.



Bellepoint Baptist Church pastor Don Cherry, delivers hot meals in his community as victims "mud out" their homes.

Sunday School Lesson Writers Announced

Rotation on a basis of every six months for commentaries on two Sunday School lesson series will begin on Jan. 1.

Joe McKeever, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, will provide the lesson commentary for the first six months of 1979 for the Life and Work Series. Larry Kennedy, pastor of First Baptist Church, Laurel, will provide the commentary for the Uniform Lesson Series.

Bill Duncan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Long Beach, who has written the Sunday School lesson commentary for the Life and Work Series for 12 years, is concluding his service in this respect with this issue of the Baptist Record. An editorial note concerning Duncan's ministry to Mississippi Baptists through the Sunday School Lesson commentary is to be found on Page 4.

Jackie Hamilton, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Meridian, has been writing the commentary for the Uniform Lesson Series for the past six months.

For the time being the Baptist Record will continue to publish commentaries on the Life and Work Series and the Uniform Lesson Series. Very likely, there will continue to be commentaries on only two of the three series in the future. Whether or not one of the commentaries eventually will be the new Bible Book Series will depend on response to the new series. If the Bible Book Series should be used, which it

Missions Deadline Set In Indonesia

Singapore — According to the American religious magazine, *Christianity Today*, a government decree recently issued in Indonesia requires all religious organizations using foreign personnel to begin a training program for Indonesians within six months so that all positions held by foreigners will be turned over to Indonesians within two years.

This action in the fifth largest country of the world increases dramatically the percentage of the world's population where foreign missionaries will henceforth be unable to minister.



Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion

New York (RNS) — Evangelist Billy Graham has declared that "one may speak of the (Jim) Jones situation as that of a cult, but it would be a sad mistake to identify it in any way with Christianity." In an Op Ed article in *The New York Times* (Dec. 5) the famed preacher, who is conducting a crusade in Singapore, said of the People's Temple leader, "It is true that he came from a religious background but what he did and how he thought have no relationship to the views and teachings of any legitimate form of historic Christianity."

New York (RNS) — Some 1,600 Japanese couples, members of the Unification Church, recently participated in a "mass engagement" and hundreds of eligible Church members in the U.S. have reportedly been invited to "start thinking about marriage."

Bossier City, La. — A Dec. 3 tornado that caused an estimated \$100 million in property damage in Bossier City destroyed the mobile home of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hayes. They are the parents of Herman P. Hayes, recruitment manager for the Furlough Ministries Department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and former missionary to Vietnam and Indonesia. Hayes' father, 76, woke just before the tornado hit and placed a mattress over his body. He received only minor scratches and bruises. His wife resides in a nursing home which was not in the tornado's path. Although the Mobile

home itself was totally destroyed, the senior Hayes was able to salvage some furniture and personal items. He is staying with family in Bossier City.

Ministers' Wives Invited To Retreat

Each January Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi invites the wives of ministers under 40 to come together for a time of special interest at Camp Garaywa.

The program Jan. 26-27 will include a study of women in the Bible led by Mrs. Vincent Scoper of Laurel, a study in deepening spiritual life by Mrs. Bryant Hicks, wife of missions professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a study of missions commitment by missionaries Gloria Thurman (Mrs. Tom) of Bangladesh and Dolores Magee (Mrs. Bob) of Colombia.

The retreat begins with suppers on Friday, Jan. 26, and ends at three o'clock on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Each participant should bring casual clothes (warm ones, if the weather is cold), pillow, blanket, sheets, towel, washcloth, toothbrush, Bible, and notebook.

Reservations should be sent in as early as possible, though there is no charge to the participants.

Missionary News

Diane and Charles Deevers, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 3331 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, Miss. 39216). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Jackson and grew up in Clinton. She is the former Dianne Sutherland of Bogalusa, La. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974, he had a dental practice in Clinton.

Emogene Harris, missionary to Nigeria, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 2, Box 261, Brandon, Miss. 39042).

Larry and Cheryl Cox, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, have arrived in the States (address: Rt. 1, Box 13-A Coila, Miss. 38923).

Winfield and Laverne Applewhite, missionaries to Indonesia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4911 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, Miss. 39211).

Van and Sarah Williams, missionaries to India, are the parents

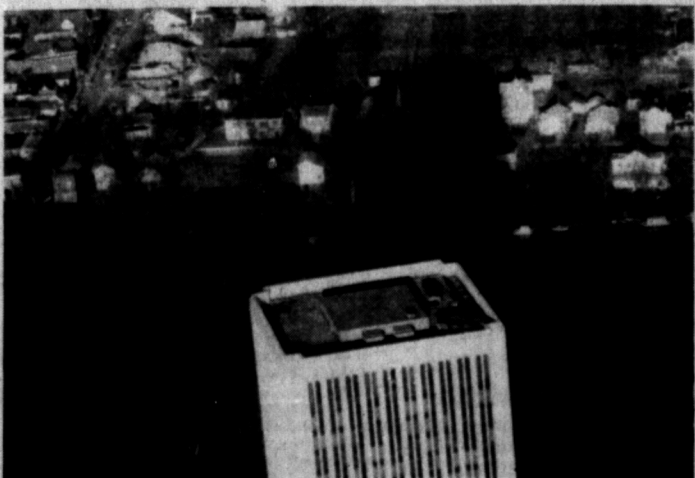
of a son, Van Wagner, born Oct. 28. They may be addressed at 383 Upper Palace Orchards, Bangalore 560, 006 India. He was born in Columbus, Miss., and lived in West Point, Miss., and Memphis, Tenn., before settling in Pontotoc, Miss. The former Sarah McGlamery, she was born in Houston, Texas, and lived in Barranquilla, Colombia, where her parents were missionaries, and Ripley, Miss.

Glendon D. Grober, missionary to Brazil, was awarded the "Cidadao Paraense" (Citizen of Para) medal by the State of Para, Brazil, in Belem on Sept. 28 for services rendered to the people of the State of Para. He may be addressed at Caixa 1043, 66000 Belem, Para, Brazil. Born in Vicksburg, Miss., he lived there and in Russellville, Ark., while growing up.

John and Ruby Parker, missionaries to Chile, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 88, Talca, Chile). He is a native of Lucedale, Miss., and she is the former Ruby Hayden of Pickton, Texas.



Rusty Griffin discusses mobile feeding at the Red Cross headquarters with Red Cross volunteer Barry Hall.



In the shadow of the tall office building, stands Bellepoint Baptist Church and the surrounding community which was devastated by the flooding Kentucky River.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

The Christmas Spirit . . . Beautiful Concept — Meaningful Observation

The prophet Isaiah gave an indication of the hope that was to come when he wrote, "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Matthew picks up this beautiful statement and repeats it in his gospel account as he tells of Joseph struggling to understand the situation until an angel of the Lord assures him that this babe to be born is the Son of God who was prophesied of old; and he adds the explanation that Emmanuel, as the spelling is changed in the King James, means "God with Us."

John explains it by pointing out that the Word was God, and "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

And this is the meaning of Christmas. All of the tinsel and glitter and all of the noble sentiments are nothing. The reason for Christmas is that God Himself came to dwell among men, beginning as a baby, so that, as the angel told Joseph, "he shall save his people from their sins." For that reason the angel instructed Joseph to name the baby Jesus, meaning Jehovah is Salvation.

When we stray from this explanation and reason for Christmas, we are off the track. We can follow any kind of social custom or family ritual we want, but if our concept of Christmas is other than the fact that the Word became flesh, then we have missed it.

The event that we call Christmas signaled the entry of God into the history of man in order that He might provide the means of saving the souls of men from their just penalty by taking the load of their wrongdoings upon Himself.

We know this. Every year we enter into the festivities of the season as if we are as unconcerned as everyone else, but we know better. The tragedy is that so many do not know the reason for the celebration of the season. They enter into the celebration and pervert it shamefully and never know what it is all about.

It is such a beautiful concept. It is

such a meaningful observation. It is so meaningful that the best minds cannot fully comprehend it. Yet it is so simple that a child can understand it.

May we at least keep our own thoughts straight this year as we contemplate this season. And, please God, maybe we can do a little this year toward helping others to understand what this event means to them and to us personally and to help them to find the way of relating themselves to the Christ whose being they should be acknowledging as they observe Christmas.

What a Christmas present it can be for those who are able to accept this truth for themselves.

Lottie Moon Offering . . . Waiting Won't Get It Done

The nationwide Lottie Moon offering goal is \$40 million that is a great deal more than ever before — \$6 million in fact. Last year's goal was \$34 million.

The Lottie Moon offering time for 1978 will not be closed out until the end of April, so there is time to make a worthwhile contribution.

There is danger, however, in putting off until later the contributions to the offering; and the danger is that what is put off until later faces the possibility of never getting done at all.

Now is the time that the offering emphasis is fresh on our minds. Now is the time when we can tie our attitude to

ward giving into the concept of a Christmas gift for the world in the form of helping support the spread of the gospel. Now is the time for giving to what is called a Christmas offering, and rightly so, for the one for whom it was named departed this life on Christmas eve after giving her life for the foreign missions endeavor that is designed to support.

The offering goal is somewhat higher than ever before, but one has only to read the daily newspapers to understand why. Our dollar has lost a great deal in value around the world,

but it is the currency with which we must finance our foreign missions program. It takes many more of them (dollars) to get the job done than ever before.

On the other hand, Southern Baptists generally are no longer the poor relations in the religious world that we once were. Many of our people are very well off, and great masses of us are making salaries that go somewhat beyond taking care of our own immediate needs. By and large, we go ahead and take care of our own needs very well, but in doing so we must not forget what our concept of religion

means to us. If we believe that our relationship with God means that we must share that relationship with others, then we have no choice but to participate in ways in which the relationship can be shared. The Lottie Moon offering is one of our ways of helping to extend this relationship to everyone around the world.

Participate in the offering now while the Christmas season and spirit are still a part of our atmosphere. You won't give as much, if anything, if you wait.

If we give \$40 million, everybody is going to have to help.

For 12 Years' Service . . . Our Appreciation To Bill Duncan

The Baptist Record feels it an honor and gladly accepts the privilege of paying tribute to Bill Duncan for his service to this paper and to the Mississippi Baptists through his commentary on the Life and Work Series of the Sunday School Lesson during the past 12 years.

The Baptist Record began rotating the Uniform Lesson Series on Jan. 1 of this year on the

basis of every six months. At the same time the change was made from an out-of-state writer, William Fallis of Nashville, Tenn., to a Mississippi writer, Hardy Denham, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Newton.

We did not establish a rotating system for the Life and Work series at that time since we already had a Mississippi writer. During the year, however, Bill came by the Baptist Record to enunciate his feelings that the time had come for the Life and Work Series lesson commentary to be rotated also.

The Baptist Record is extremely grateful to Bill Duncan for his ministry through its pages for these 12 years. Conversations across the state indicate that the "Sunday School Lesson" commentaries are among the most widely read features in the Baptist Record. The writers of these commentaries make definite contributions to Mississippi Baptists as they prepare their material. We appreciate the efforts of each of them, and we particularly want to express that appreciation to Bill Duncan. He has served in an extraordinary way for the past 12 years. The Baptists of Mississippi and

the Baptist Record will not soon forget his contribution to all of us.

Any expression of appreciation to Bill for his faithful service in this respect would be less than adequate at best. We would like to try; but until we can do better, we must at least say, "Thank you."

Our appreciation also is due Jackie Hamilton, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Meridian, who has been writing the Uniform Lesson Series commentary for this six months. The comments in this issue conclude his presentation.

Are They A Burden? 'Forgive Us Our Christmases. . .'

A little girl who had been counting the days till Christmas could not help but be puzzled by what the day before Christmas was like, reports the Gospel Herald.

On Christmas eve she had noticed: Dad seemed to be loaded down with worries as well as bundles. Mom's anxiety had reached the breaking point several times during the day.

Anywhere the little girl went, she seemed to be in the way more than usual. There was such a hustle and bustle by so many to do so much, all in the name of "being ready for Christmas."

By the time the child was hustled off

to bed, the feverish planning for Christmas had completely unnerved her. So, as she knelt to pray the Lord's Prayer, she got part of it mixed up and prayed: "Forgive us our Christmases as we forgive those who Christmas against us."

Has Christmas in our day actually become a load for us rather than a lift?

In a small town just before Christmas I saw a poor family trying to do what it expected of itself on a Christmas shopping trip. There were three of them — Dad, Mother, and teen-age daughter. It was obvious at a glance that Christmas was an extra financial burden for them.

The day was cold. While mother and daughter were comfortably dressed, their apparel showed considerable age and wear. Dad wore overalls and two shirts, but no jacket or coat. As he walked his body seemed to be trying to nestle in itself, much as cattle left unprotected in winter blasts. His only mark of self-respect (?) was a half-smoked cigarette hanging jauntily between his lips as he walked with hands in pockets. He seemed to be somewhat of a lamb being led to the slaughter.

The name of this family is Legion, for there are many like it.

Perhaps we need to go back to Bethlehem and look again at the first

Christmas.

Free of the burdens of Christmas as we have them today, and with their eyes and hearts fixed on Jesus, the shepherds, poor though they were, became possessed of the true spirit of Christmas. Luke reports that they "made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." and "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

—Erwin L. McDonald, in "Stories for Speakers and Writers" McDonald is editor emeritus of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

—Letters To The Editor—

The Real Tool

Dear Editor:

In the Baptist Record paper I've read an editorial and an article both written on the subject, "Cults," mainly Jim Jones and Jonestown. And both missed the outstanding tool being used. Between the devil and the deep blue sea, is the tool communism. There are over 300 cults in our nation. They feed off our laws, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. More so the last, which they use as a front, and behind this front are the Red Brigades who are brainwashed to care less for destroying human life than a swat of a house fly. Red Brigades are in every place where they can be isolated from governments; from security forces of each country. The traps they set for innocent victims cannot be prevented by the preaching of the Word of God; because this is the front used most often.

The traps can be stopped only by our security forces of our country and cooperation with all other countries. Do we want the tool of the devil stopped? If we do, then write our House of Congress and the men who represent our state and ask them to support in money, and men, our FBI and CIA and others who can unearth these traps and expose the roots. If the Red Brigades have no fronts, they cannot hide away to do their deadly works. Name Withheld by Request

need of prayer. We are aware that missions is the glue that holds Southern Baptists together. It is absolutely imperative that we find God's person for this position.

I'd like to thank you for urging prayer on our behalf in your recent editorial. Secondly, I want to underscore the need for all our people in all our churches to lift us in prayer.

The address of your committee is: Search Committee c/o Hunter Higgins P. O. Box 2188 Poquoson, VA 23062

We would be happy to receive communications from any Southern Baptist who wishes to have input to the search — but most urgently, we want prayer.

Cordially,
Joe McKeever
First Baptist Church
Columbus, MS

Book Reviews

THE EYE OF THE STORM; by Minerva Mattar; photostat, \$2; hardback, \$5.95; 213 Rowland Ave., Jackson 39209 or Box 179, Ripley 38663.

Minerva Mattar is the widow of the former keeper of the Garden Tomb in

Jerusalem, Solomon J. Mattar. He was shot on the second day of the six-day Israel-Arab war in 1967.

The book is taken from a collection of letters written by Mrs. Mattar to Valerie Boyd Howell of Ripley, who has fashioned the collection into a book.

The book is the story of the life of Minerva Mattar from her childhood until the present. It presents a great deal of interesting information and insight into the ministry of Mattar as he lectured at the Garden Tomb, supposed by Protestants to have been the tomb where Christ was laid. The Mattars were forced from their home and career in Haifa in 1948; and they made their way to the old city of Jerusalem, then still in Arab control. In 1967 Israel took over the old city; and, according to the account, Solomon was shot at the gate to the tomb as he greeted Israeli soldiers. Random shots into the tomb barely missed Mrs. Mattar as she was taking refuge there. It was three days before she could get to her husband's body.

The Mattar children were all in North America, and she came to the United States to live. She now lives with her daughter, Florence, at 2206 Silver Ridge Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 70039.

This is an unusual and highly in-

teresting book. The Mattars were Arab Christians, but there is no attempt to establish a blame on anyone for Mattar's death. It's purpose is more to show the leadership of the Lord along a strange and difficult path. —DTM

DAYLIGHT by Andrew Kuyvenhoven (Zondervan, paper, \$4.95) This book offers suggested Bible readings for each day in a year, and gives page-long discussions of the selected readings. Each month the focus is on a particular book of the Bible or some unifying theme, for instance "Living with God" (the story of Abraham) and "The Gospel According to Paul" (Romans). The author is a Canadian minister in the Christian Reformed Church.

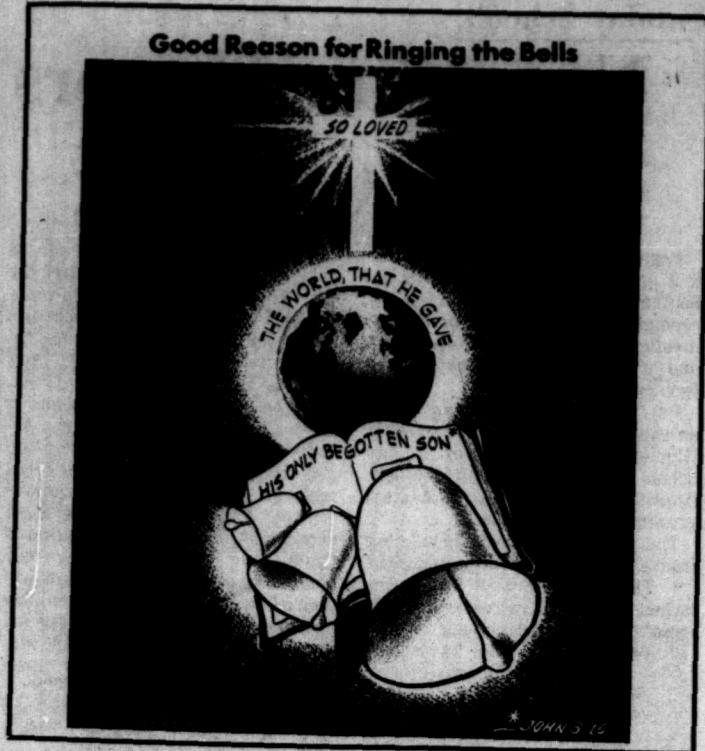
CALLED TO BE by Donald Charles Lacy: C. S. S. Publishing Co., 628 South Main Street, Lima Ohio 45804; 158 pages; Paper \$4.50.

This is a collection of sermons by the author, who is pastor of First United Methodist Church of Seymour, Indiana. Each is based on the Sermon on the Mount, and each title begins with the phrase, "Called To Be." There are 20 sermons. The author has been a pastor for 20 years. Before that he was

engaged in teaching and was on active duty with the Navy.

COURAGE FOR CRISIS LIVING by Paul L. Walker (Fleming H. Revell, \$5.95, 128 pp.) The only way to find strength, this pastor believes, is to lose it, the only way to cope with life is to learn to depend on God's power rather than on our own resources. He says "you can live on top when the bottom drops out" and shows how you can turn handicaps into handles, misfortune into blessing, and doubts into assurance. Every claim he makes is supported by Scripture.

THE ENCOURAGER by D. Elton Trueblood (Broadman, 144 pp., \$5.95) For Yokefellows International quarterly letters, Trueblood wrote a series of essays devoted to problems about which people were perplexed. All the essays collected in this book have been written since the author's retirement from the philosophy professorship at Earlham College in England. Understanding that beliefs make real differences in life, the author deals constructively with questions Christians ask today. He shows a variety of ways that faith can be lived out.



Faces And Places A Gift From The Father

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Jesus asked, "What man . . . if his son ask bread, will . . . give him a stone? if ye . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Of His own accord, the Father gave the world His Son.

Last December Huber Drumwright, Southwestern Seminary professor, preached at First Baptist Church, Jackson, and I happened to be listening on television as he talked about the meaning of Christmas. He said:

"The most beautiful and meaningful words Jesus ever uttered were the words, 'Abba, Father.' Jesus came to show us the Father. God sent His Son so we too might become God's children and call Him Father."

In the storage room at the back of our garage is a bird house, its paint chipped and peeling. I hope to get it repaired and repainted and back into service in the spring. To other eyes it may not look very valuable. But to me it is one of my most precious possessions. It was a Christmas gift my father made for me, six months before his death.

Daddy had a natural deftness for working with wood, so that carpentry became one of his vocations.

Mosquitoes were plentiful in 1970 in south Jackson when W. D. and I were living on North Hines Street, and I was elated to read that purple martins would eat mosquitoes. Daddy heard me say I would like a martin house and decided to build me one for Christmas.

I treasure this gift because he spent so much of his strength in its construction. Though Daddy was only 67, chronic bronchitis had weakened his lungs and he was very thin and frail. The slightest exertion exhausted him. With determination, he would set himself a task and do all in his power, with God's help, to finish it.

Mama told me later that he would on those cold December days slowly walk out to his work spot in the old wagon

shelter beside the smokehouse. Each day with his electric saw he would hew out a section for my bird house. It must have cost him enormous effort, but he did not give up until the little multi-story apartment house for birds was built and covered with a roof, and perch poles nailed to the sides and ends.

The craftsmanship is not the beautiful carpentry of Daddy's earlier years, when he made my bathroom cabinets and bedroom bookcases. The doors are crooked and the windows uneven, but in every inch of the little house I see the marks of Daddy's love as he poured all of himself into his gift for me.

Drumwright told how once his father said to him, "Son, I want you to help me build a picnic table."

He did, and then his mother commented, "Son, that is the best and most wonderful picnic table I ever saw."

I remember times when Daddy would cut a Christmas tree with his axe and then ask Betty and me to hold it while he nailed it to a board. Then, inside the house, Mama would bring the decorations box out of the kitchen closet and we would help her trim the tree.

"God is saying to us," Drumwright pointed out, "My child, I need you to help me, to work with me in this world."

God wanted us to be His children — enough to send us the gift of His Son. Surely He must be pleased when we respond to Him, as did Jesus, with a cry of love and adoration — "Abba! Father!"

He did not use a silvery box
Or paper green and red
God laid His Christmas gift to men
Within a manger bed.
No silken cord was used to bind
The gift sent from above.
'Twas wrapped in swaddling clothes
and bound
In tender cords of love.

Reprinted from
"The Gloster Baptist"



Mrs. Minerva Mattar, formerly associated with the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, and Harris Counce, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ripley, on the occasion of Mrs. Mattar's visit to the church.

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Search Committee

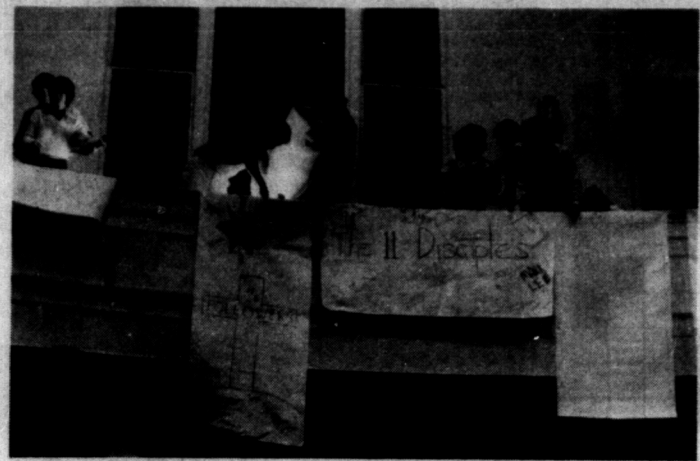
Requests Prayer

Dear Editor:

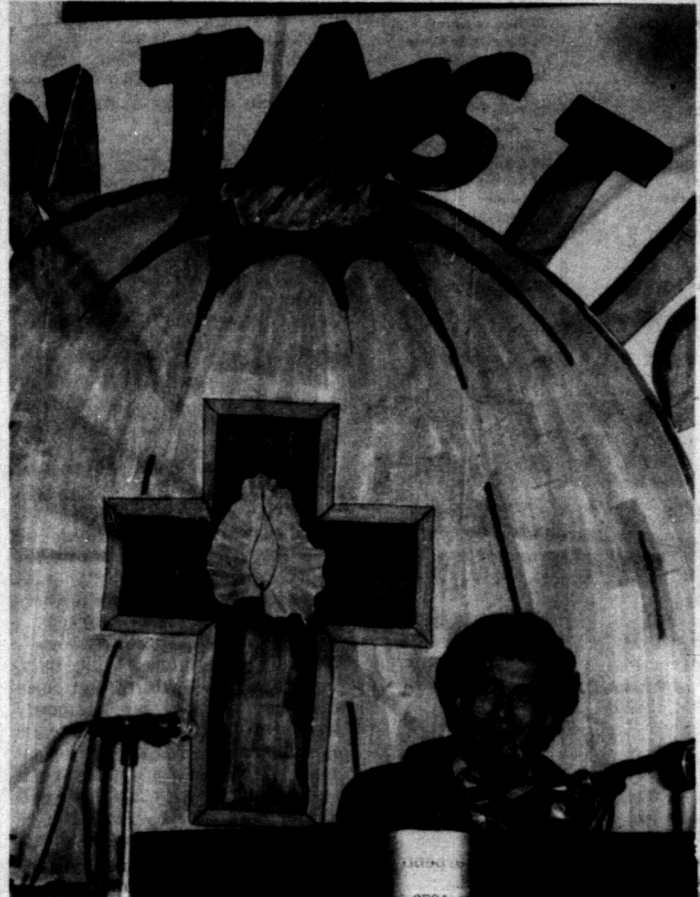
As you know the Foreign Mission Board has recently handed a king-size task to 15 of us. We are to recommend a new Executive Director of the Board sometime during 1979.

All of us on the committee feel a deep

Fantastic Fall
Draws 500 Youths



Fantastic Fall in Columbus at First Baptist Church, drew more than 500 high school and college students for entertainment and training in discipleship.



Ron Davis, minister of music and young adults at West Memorial Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., led the music during Fantastic Fall.

New Orleans Trustees Elect Dorr, Minton

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary have elected Luther Dorr and James L. Minton to faculty positions.

Dorr, formerly pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., was appointed to the faculty of the seminary's School of Christian Training for diploma students to teach pastoral ministries.

In addition to his recent pastorate, he has held similar positions in Mississippi and Maryland and has also served as director of associational missions in Mississippi and Alabama.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from the New Orleans Seminary.

Minton, formerly administrative assistant to the executive vice president at the seminary, became assistant professor of youth education.

A candidate for the doctor of education degree in the upcoming December graduation exercises, Minton has been

Youth Evangelism

(Continued from Page 1)

Randel Trull, pastor of Jackson's Briarwood Drive church will lead witness training seminars. Other joint session leaders include Randy Williams, platform speaker from Texas; Donn Poole, minister of youth at Broadmoor church; and Mike Warnke, author and recording artist, Nashville.

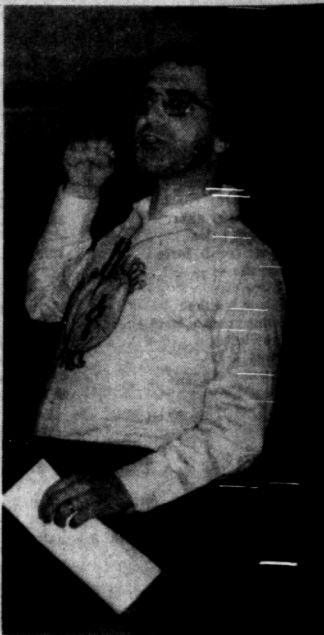
Registration begins at 11 a.m., Dec. 28. The program concludes at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 29.

Off The Record

An old-timer explained: "We had to use substitutes for Christmas tree ornaments when I was a kid, because we were so poor. We used oranges and apples to decorate our tree." "Have you done that in recent years?" someone asked. "No," he replied, "fruit's too high." —Sloan Wilson, A Summer Place (Simon and Schuster)



The Imperials gave a musical performance Friday night of the conference. Their music included a special number about the cults that had a line that said, "It won't be Hare Krishna that plays that trumpet tune, we're going to see the Lord, not Reverend Moon." (Tim Nicholas Photos)



Joe McKeever, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, told the youths that discipleship means giving up some things: our rights, our pride, our possessions. He said that when people give Jesus everything, He will make all he has available to them.



Barry St. Clair, a youth evangelism specialist headquartered in Atlanta, told the group that "discipleship is to know Him and to make Him known." He said people need to be willing to be totally obedient to God.

Your Most Significant Gift

By Ruby Buckley, Prentiss
Fear is not new. It is a part of being human. Adam and Eve were the first to experience fear. It is a built-in alarm that lets us know that something is wrong. The Bible tells us that after Adam and Eve had disobeyed God they were afraid and they hid from Him. Fear separates us from each other and God.
That first Christmas the events that took place caused fear for many people. Let's look at four instances of fear and see what happened.
Mary was afraid when the angel appeared to her to announce that she would be Jesus' mother. His words to her were, "Do not be afraid Mary! God loves you dearly. You are going to be the mother of a son and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be known as the Son of the most high. His reign shall never end" (Luke 1:29-30).

Swiss Seminary Reduces Deficit

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)—A projected operating deficit of 200,000 Swiss francs (\$116,000) has been reduced by contributions to the Baptist Theological Seminary from unions, churches and individuals.

Combined with severe staff reductions and other economy measures, this means the seminary will end the current year with a balanced budget and is assured of remaining open.

"The response has been nothing short of astounding," seminary President Isam E. Ballenger told the school's new executive board at its initial meeting Dec. 8. Ballenger is a Southern Baptist missionary.

He said gifts have totaled more than 100,000 Swiss francs since it was announced last March that the seminary could not continue with financing only from sources outside Europe.

Steps were taken toward creation of a non-profit seminary foundation for protection of funds and donors.

Support pledges for 1979 include

46,500 Swiss francs from European Baptist unions, 27,000 Swiss francs from churches and church institutions, and 10,000 Swiss francs from individuals.

Christmas would mean nothing if it were not shared with someone. It is a festival which cannot be indulged in alone. The gaudy ribbon about the simplest gift causes that gift to take on a merit which it did not possess before; and just as a single rose may light up a room, or a bit of lavender may perfume a queen's whole wardrobe, so one word on a card, written in sincerity, may brighten the dimmest winter day.

—Charles Hanson Towne.

In this theater of man's life, it is reserved only for God and angels to be lookers-on. —Pythagoras

Tell It Out with Gladness

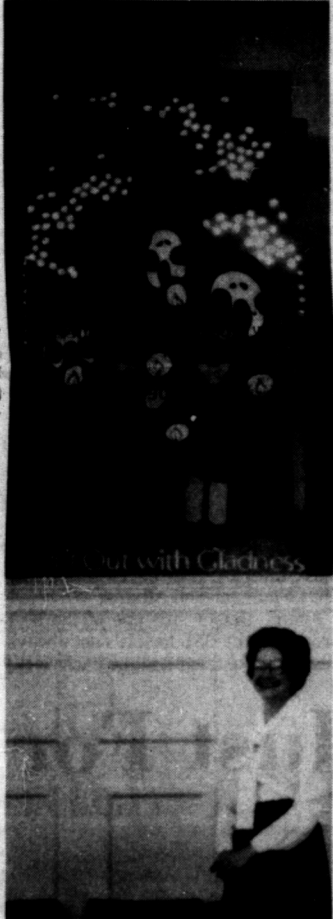


Lottie Moon Christmas Offering National Goal: \$40,000,000

To Give, Not Get

The Easter Bunny-Santa Claus Have come to represent Something that we never guessed And what we never meant. They bring us candy eggs and toys Inciting childish greed. They often bring us what we want, But seldom what we need. We need a time to celebrate The gift of God's own son. He gave it all — not in a sale, But free for everyone. To give not get, that's what God meant That ancient Christmas morn. So we'd just think of others once That's why his son was born. So breathe a prayer that God will send A blessing anyway, And make us live for Jesus on this Holy-giving day.

—Tim Nicholas



Morrison Heights Goes Over Goal On First Day

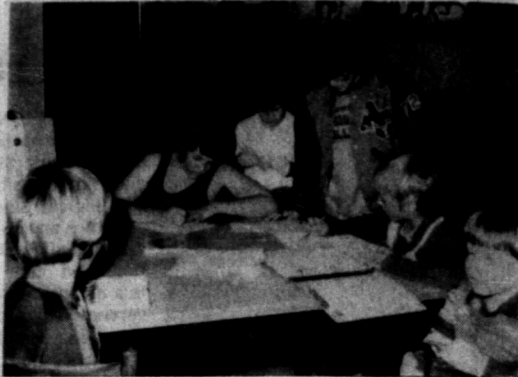
Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, set a goal of \$9,000 for the 1978 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The goal was passed on the first Sunday of the offering, Dec. 3, with total gifts that day of a little over \$12,008. By Sunday, Dec. 17, gifts had reached \$12,959.54. Kermit McGregor, the church's pastor since May, 1978, announced the goal six or eight weeks before the Week of Prayer began and stated that he believed it would be met on the first day. The center of interest for the sanctuary, above, is a duplicate of the Lottie Moon poster for this year. It was made by Bob Dunaway, Melba and George North, and Mrs. Doris Murphy, pictured, the church's WMU director. All poster lights were turned on, Dec. 3.

Doctor Talks Of Bangladesh

Prentiss Church gave almost \$7,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering last year. This year the goal is \$7,000. Pastor David Michel, the WMU and entire church are putting forth every effort to excel in this year's campaign. David J. Van Landingham, Jackson physician, spoke at prayer meeting Dec. 6, and related the experiences he and others had in a mission trip to Bangladesh. Using slides and graphic language, he portrayed the underprivileged country and the many problems it faces, including disease, poor living conditions and almost a spiritual vacuum. His team, according to his remarks, made the trip at the team members' own expense.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Details. Categories include Sunday School, Church Training, Church Music, Brotherhood, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Baptist Foundation, Christian Action Commission, and Evangelism. Details include Bible study plans, training opportunities, and church events for January 1979.

Concerned College Students Tutor Children At The Village



The word "tutor" may conjure up images of English gentlemen instructing pampered young aristocrats about the finer points of fencing and horsemanship. But at Mississippi College, the Baptist Student Union sponsors a tutoring program that is much more realistic and rewarding.

Each Thursday evening, 25-30 MC students board the BSU bus to ride the short distance to the Baptist Children's Village. They are the tutors — not always the academically superior students, but a group of concerned individuals willing to help younger children with their school work.

Tammy Faulkner of Lucedale and Kent Adams of Houston, Tex., are the co-chairmen of the tutoring project. Both see the weekly tutoring visits as an equal privilege and responsibility. "Mr. Rogers at the Village told us that our studies come first," says Adams, "so if we have to miss because of a big test, it's OK. But I know that those kids are looking forward to my coming, and I don't want to disappoint them."

Tammy echoes his feelings. "Nobody checks roll or asks 'where were you last week,' but everybody takes this opportunity seriously. You don't have to be an education major or a 4.0 student to be a tutor. You just have to be willing to go and work with the kids."

The tutors are assigned to small groups in the individual cottages for a one-hour session each visit. Ages of the children range from elementary through high school, so the college students may find themselves doing anything from calling out spelling words to first graders to working on algebra with teenagers.

Adams is a 4.0 student himself and a starter on the football team. He is in his second year with the program and says he knows his work has produced some results. "Last year, we were assigned to individual students, and I've seen my little boy grow and change since then. It's almost like being a parent. But the most important thing we do is just listen and encourage these kids."

Taking time to be with the children and teaching them to improve their study skills are the basic goals that most tutors try to accomplish, say Miss Faulkner and Adams.

Adams thinks "it's one of the best programs the BSU has. It's not always easy to make the time to go each week,



but I've re-arranged some of my priorities so that I can."

Another individual who makes tutoring at the Village a high priority is Willis Thatcher. Thatcher, a blind student who lives off-campus, heard about the BSU ministry and wanted to be involved. So each week, he, too, helps younger children with their school work by listening to them read aloud.

And the effects of the tutoring program are long-lasting. T. D. Rogers, a Village administrator who works closely with the MC students, recently received a call from a former Mississippi College student who had tutored at the Baptist Children's Village in 1972. Remembering the special feeling

that a personal contact brought to her students, she requested a child for a visit in the home during Christmas.

A psychologist would probably note the mutually beneficial emotional advantages for both tutors and students, but Miss Faulkner and Adams just know that it "makes them feel good" to be needed.

M. C. tutors, 1978, include: Cindy Gregory, Sandie Wilbanks, James Kinsey, John Travis, Cindy Barton, Teresa Sharp, Cynthia Hamilton, Becky Mason, Mary Alice Ellis, Nancy Myers, Patty Lister, Kent Adams, Elizabeth Young, Louis May III, Julie Latham, Mark Hawkins, Elaine Martin, Teresa Ingram, Vickie Carpenter, Don Franklin, Marlene Boudreaux, Lisa Morelli, Allison Hilburn, Anne Wallace, William Young, Sandy Wells, Michelle Terrebbonne, Becky Stingley, Russell Evans, Matt Adams,

Tammy Faulkner, Misty Straughn, Cindy Barden, Earl Adams, Hugh Smith, Alicia Gunn, Keith Ward, Larry Hudson, Hal Fisher, Willis, Jenny Denton, Pam Grimsley,

Mark McComb, Dennis Rape, Janet Strange, Alison Brown, David Webb, Carl Breazeale, and Weldon Moak.

North American Baptists Continue Growth Pattern

WASHINGTON (BP) — Baptists in North America, led by growth in the United States, continued a decade pattern of growth according to new statistics compiled by the Baptist World Alliance.

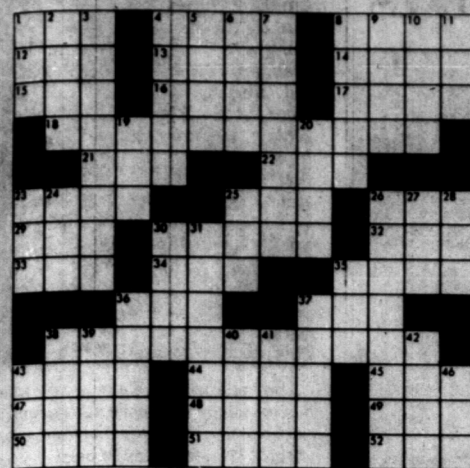
Church growth figures indicate there are 29,191,348 Baptists in 101,855 Baptist churches in North America, compared with 29,016,036 Baptists in 101,245 churches in 1977, an increase of .006 percent in members. Ten years ago, Baptist church membership was 26,412,866 in North America.

Carl Tiller, former Baptist World Alliance staff member who compiled the data, said Southern Baptists accounted for the greatest growth. While Baptists in Canada and Mexico experienced slight decreases,

Southern Baptists grew by 160,092 and other Baptists in the United States increased by 21,436.

The largest Baptist bodies in the United States, and their membership, as reported by the Baptist World Alliance, are: Southern Baptist Convention, 13,083,199; National Baptist Convention, Inc., 6.3 million (estimated); National Baptist Convention of America, 3.5 million (estimated); American Baptist Churches, 1,584,517; Baptist Bible Fellowship, 1.2 million (estimated); American Baptist Association, 1,089,000.

The first four on the list are four of the 111 member bodies of the Baptist World Alliance, the other two are not.



ACROSS

- 1 "the — number" (Num. 3)
- 4 Storage: abbr.
- 6 Juan's coin
- 12 Wrath
- 13 Place for the serpent (Num. 21:8)
- 14 "heaven gave —" (Jas. 5:18)
- 15 O.T. book: abbr.
- 16 Turkish titles
- 17 Bone: comb. form
- 18 "By the —" (3 Cor. 6)
- 21 Bar or breaker
- 22 Iodine: comb. form
- 23 They left it (Matt. 4:23)
- 25 Elevator signs: abbr.

- 26 Youth
- 28 Spanish gold
- 30 Saying
- 32 Victorian, for one
- 33 Military monogram
- 34 "Light of —" (John 1:4)
- 35 "— of Jesse" (Isa. 11:1)
- 36 Old measure (2 Kl. 6:25)
- 37 Tree: abbr.
- 38 "a — — — springing up" (John 4)
- 43 "in the — of the king" (Dan. 2)
- 44 Something wildly amusing
- 45 Aerocool
- 47 Mount (Acts 7:36)

CRYPTOVERSE

RLK CJAT UY JO EZ YUTK U GUCC

O J R I K P A

Today's Cryptoverse clue: A equals R

(Answers on P. 7)

Evening Classes Will Begin

Jan. 11 At BMC

Registration for evening classes at Blue Mountain College for the second semester of 1978-79 will be held on Monday night, January 8th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Evening students will register in the Registrar's Office with first regular classroom work set to begin on Thursday, January 11, 1979.

Business courses to be offered include shorthand and business law; Bible courses are the Old and New Testament and sermon building; English courses include English literature with a course on introduction to library resources set under the Library Science department.

Other courses to be offered are music for the beginner as well as private instruction in organ, piano and voice; survey of earth and space science; and a social science course on the history of civilization.

A special education course on methods and materials for teaching the child with learning disabilities is also set for Monday evenings during the semester as is a 3-hour course on church recreational leadership.

BMC will provide a 3-hour workshop in art at New Albany with art professor Bill Dowdy in charge. It will meet on Tuesdays.

Tuition and fees for each course is \$130 for full college credit and \$65 per course for non-credit. The courses listed above all carry 3 semester hours credit.

Additional information about evening course registration may be obtained by contacting the Academic Dean's office on the BMC campus.

The Spirit Of Love

One cold rainy night while I was waiting at a bus stop many years ago, an elderly woman got off the bus and walked slowly to where I stood.

"Could you tell me when the next bus is due?" she asked.

I asked her which bus she wanted . . . and when she told me, I remarked . . .

"But ma'm, you just got off that one". . .

"Well, she stuttered a bit shyly, 'you see, there was a terribly crippled young man on that bus, and nobody offered him a seat. I knew he'd be quite embarrassed if an old lady like me got up for him . . . So, I just pretended it was time for me to get off . . . And I rang the bell just as he was alongside my seat. In that way, I know he wasn't embarrassed . . . And you know, there's always another bus."

—Reprinted from "Cheer"

'Tis the divinity that stirs within us; 'Tis Heaven itself that points out an hereafter.

And intimates eternity to man.

—William Shakespeare



Oxford Members Give Blood

First Church, Oxford, recently participated in a church-wide blood drive through the Mississippi Regional Blood Center. Shown above with M.R.B.C. personnel are (left) Noah Massey, church maintenance superintendent, and (right) Mrs. Carolyn Tibbs, Sunday School teacher. The whole church family now enjoys coverage of any need of blood they may have. Lewis Sewell is pastor.

'Baptist Hour' Speaker Will Interview Ambassadors From Egypt And Israel

What radio program lets you visit the United Nations and Turkey, meet with ambassadors from Egypt and Israel and listen to aerobics expert Kenneth Cooper? "The Baptist Hour," produced by the Radio and Television Commission does.

These events will be highlighted during the 1979 season. This 37-year-old program is heard nationwide on over

Lamar County

Gives Banquet

Lamar Association had a Mission Emphasis Banquet at First Church, Purvis on December 2. Guest speakers were Marjean Patterson and Bob Reid. There were approximately 100 people in attendance.

The banquet was sponsored by the associational Brotherhood Department, directed by Bob Goolsby. The Brotherhood invited the WMU Departments from all of the churches; five responded. Plans are being made to conduct this on an annual basis.

Fear Thou Not

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (Isaiah 41:10).

All of us at times have a feeling of fear. We're afraid something will happen to our loved ones; we're afraid to follow through on something that's difficult to do. If we put our trust in the Lord and remember He is with us, our fears will vanish. It's when we trust in our own strength alone that we have fears. Whisper a prayer. Ask God to be with you; then "fear thou not" for He will be with you.

—Lena Scott Price

If the other person injures you, you may forget the injury; but if you injure him you will always remember. —Kahlil Gibran

400 stations including Saipan, Guam, Philippines, Bahamas, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands.

Frank Pollard, pastor, First Church, Jackson, is host for the program.

"The main thrust of the new season is to interview interesting people in interesting places with discussions that will enhance the sermon/Bible study topic," said Claude Cox, marketing director.

"On our trip to the U.N. we talked with Ambassadors Ahmed Meguid and Yehuda Blum about their religious convictions, which are Islamic and Jewish respectively," said Cox.

"They were very open about their faith and readily explained how it helped them in their work."

"We felt interviewing persons of difficult religions would give our listeners a better understanding of these faiths and a greater appreciation for their own," said Cox.

In April, Pollard and Cox will tape programs from various sites in Turkey. They plan to visit the Egyptian

Obelisk in Istanbul, the House where the Virgin Mary was supposed to have lived, and locations of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation.

Sermon topics for 1979 include "The Scales of God" (Urging listeners to weigh themselves by God's standards instead of their own), "Hunger In The Heart" (speaking on the void in men's souls that only God can fill), "To The Work" (asking Christians to work daily for God), and "A Worthy Witness" (telling listeners a good witness speaks with love, simplicity and urgency).

Other guests on the program include Elias Golonka, Southern Baptist home missionary to the U.N. and Polish refugee of World War II, Jerry Lucas, former pro-basketball player and now memory expert (he is currently memorizing the Bible) and author Joy Wilt.

On "Mother's Day," a special program will be aired featuring Margaret Taylor, mother of 11 children and wife of Kenneth Taylor, who paraphrased the Living Bible.

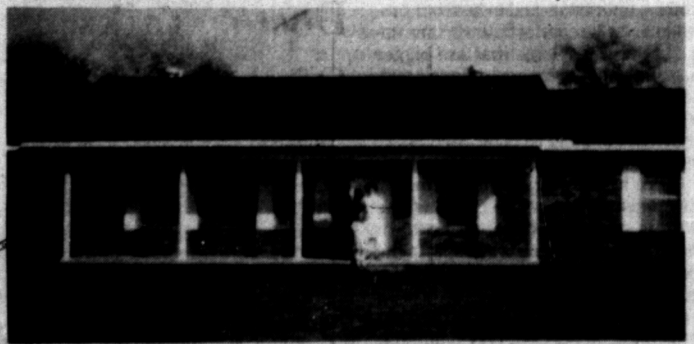


Frank Pollard (right), host of "The Baptist Hour," talks with Ahmed Meguid, Egyptian ambassador to the U.N., about the Islamic faith. The program featuring Meguid will be aired Jan. 7 on radio stations nationwide. —Radio-TV Commission Photo

Just For The Record



THE DRAMA CLASS OF FIRST CHURCH OF RIDGELAND recently presented the drama, "THE CELL" by John Kirm as the evening worship service of the church. On the eve of Thanksgiving, they presented it at Willow Grove Church, Collins. "The group would be glad to present it for worship services at any church in the area," states Frances Allen, the director. The drama is a stirring account of the persecution of Christians in Rome during the reign of Nero. The cast and crew are pictured: from left to right, kneeling: Terry Hines, Larry Bouchillon, Cindy Watkins; standing: Kelly Wallace, Marguerite Rogers, Mike Loftin, Bill Fullilove, Kevin Bouchillon, Kim Bouchillon, Martha Bouchillon, Frances Allen, Earl Allen, and Wayne Griffin.



A NEW PASTORIUM was recently dedicated at Calvary Church, Quitman. Speakers were W. W. Hayes, Wilson Boggan, and Ray McCorkle, the Calvary pastor. Special guests were Mayor Franklin Slay of Quitman and Mayor James Haywood of Stonewall who is song director for the church. In the photo, Pastor McCorkle and his wife and daughter Kelli are standing in the doorway of the spacious brick home on Railroad Avenue, the same avenue as the church.

In-Service Guidance Professors Will Go On Mission To Alaska

James Travis, Blue Mountain College, and Jerry Oswalt, William Carey College, are planning to spend Christmas holidays in Alaska.

Travis will be visiting Anchorage (Dec. 29 - Jan. 5) and staying in the home with former classmate, Edward Wolfe, director of missions for the Chugach Baptist Association. He will

be giving an overview of the Gospel of Mark, January Bible text, to pastors, church staff members and other interested people in the greater Anchorage area. He will also speak in three different churches in Anchorage while there.

Travis said that friends are making contributions toward travel and other expenses involved in this mission and

he expressed appreciation to all who are making this opportunity available.

Jan. 2 - Jan. 6, Jerry Oswalt will be visiting with the Felix B. Green family, pastor of First Baptist Church, Seaward, and moderator of the Tustumena Baptist Association. His exact teaching/speaking schedule is not yet complete.

Original plans had included Charles Melton, Clarke College, to go to Fairbanks to work with the Tanana Baptist Association, and for Philips McCarty, Mississippi College, to go to Juneau, and other towns in southeastern Alaska to work with the Tongass Baptist Association.

This teaching ministry idea began in January 1978 as Hollis Bryant, consultant in In-Service Guidance, discussed Alaska Bible teaching needs with Foy Rogers, director, Cooperative Mission Department, and the four In-service Guidance Professors at Lake Tlak O'Khata, Louisville, while gathered there for annual planning emphasis.

Southeastern OKs Capital Campaign

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP) — Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected E. T. Vinson chairman, approved a \$3.5 million capital endowment campaign and elected Ben F. Philbeck of Kansas City, Mo., as professor of Old Testament interpretation at their semi-annual meeting.

Vinson, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Greenville, N. C., succeeds Tom Brandon of Sherman, Texas.

Money from the capital endowment campaign will go to re-cycle the 145-year-old campus, provide married student housing and add to the school's endowment. Southeastern occupies the campus which formerly housed Wake Forest College. The three-year campaign was approved by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at its September meeting and by the seminary's 30-member development council.

Philbeck, currently professor of Hebrew and Old Testament interpretation at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will join Southeastern Aug. 1, 1979. He has taught at Carson-Newman College where he received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1972 and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned the bachelor of science degree from Wake Forest University, the bachelor of divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, and a doctoral degree from Southern Seminary.

The trustees also voted to establish the Fletcher Visiting Professors of Missions, named for James Floyd and Mrs. Louise Barker Fletcher, pioneer missionaries in Western North Carolina and southwestern Virginia.

In other actions the trustees: —Granted permission to proceed with plans to construct 100 townhouse apartments, and to negotiate a loan not to exceed \$2,582,444 for construction of the apartments.

—Authorized the administration to develop a 23-lot residential subdivision to provide building sites for faculty and administrative officers.

—Approved "in principle" a proposal to offer seminary courses for credit on the Mars Hill College campus for ministers in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

Christmas Magic

(Continued from page 1)

There's magic in your heart when you look at your five-year-old daughter with the glow of the Christmas tree lights on her face as she says, "Mama, was Jesus really a baby just like me?"

There's magic in your home when your Dad borrows money for food, fruit and Christmas candy for a needy family and your mother says, "Well, we'll make it somehow."

There's magic in the face of a friend when you say, "I love you for what you've been to me this year." And magic again in your heart when the friend responds with "You mean just that much to me."

Love—the real magic of Christmas. When we concentrate on commercialism we lose sight of the magic that should be in our hearts. We forget the first Christmas which was magic in its greatest form. "God loved us and sent His Son."

The magic He gave to that first Christmas was the only hope for all mankind for all ages. And the love He shared to all of us can never be equalled by the most magnificent gift that man could afford.

The magic of Christmas is still there, and will always be.

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The Christmas Snowflake

(Isa. 55:10; Job 38:22-23)

The Christmas snowflake isn't seen much nowadays because of the loveless people—their and their modern ways. Although each and every snowflake is very, very rare, people, busy and rushing everywhere, seldom seem to care. When God sends us freezing showers of his snow, they're to purify earth and mankind of filth and sin—or did you know? Also, they're an aid in keeping peace and good will toward all men in times of battles, wars, troubles, and quarrels—in which we've been. In our condition, we need a lot more Christmas snowflakes, not only for purification and peace, but also for our many rivers and lakes. Snowflakes are just one of the great creations sent down from the Almighty God's heavenly station. If it were not for His never-ending love, there would not be any Christmas snowflakes from above.

—Jacky Campbell
Natchez

Clarke-Venable Deacons Give Banquet For Widows, Widowers

Widows and widowers in the Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, were guests of honor at a banquet Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, sponsored by deacons of the church.

Rex Braswell, businessman from Hattiesburg, was guest speaker. Fifty deacons and wives and 51 widows and widowers attended. Deacons presented gifts to each of the widows and widowers.

Deacon wives in charge of planning and food were Mrs. Lizzie Johnson, Mrs. Suela Bishop, Mrs. Marian Thornton, Mrs. Lois McMullan, Mrs.

Janie McMullan, Mrs. Mattie B. Jones, Mrs. Sue Graham, and Mrs. Madaline Mayes.

The pastor, Gus Merritt, said that the church followed the suggestion in the current Deacon magazine for the banquet, with Tommy Graham, vice chairman of deacons, in charge. The Deacon Family Ministry Plan was started in the church this year.

Merritt said, "I would personally encourage other churches to do something similar to this at Christmas time."

In Names The News



Liberty Church, Liberty, presented attendance pins on High Attendance Day, Oct. 29 to six Sunday School members for perfect attendance as follows: one year, Ben Caston, Julia Caston, Mrs. Emmalyne Harrison, and Bobbie Maxwell; ten years, Melloine Rogers and Wanda Rogers. Front row: Wanda Rogers, Ben Caston, Mrs. Harrison, Melloine Rogers. Back row: O. D. Judge, Jr., Sunday School director, Bobbie Maxwell, Julia Caston, and Charles Holfield, pastor.



First Church, Gautier on Oct. 29 recognized its pastor, John G. Brock, for his 20 years of ministry. He was ordained on Oct. 29, 1958, at Emmanuel Church, Jackson, when W. R. Storie was pastor.

The above picture shows Ralph Smith, chairman of deacons, and LeRoy Foster, vice-chairman, presenting a plaque to Brock.

Brock has been pastor of First Church, Gautier for over six years, during which time the church has made great strides in every area. The budget, staff and attendance have doubled; a new family life-education building has been constructed. Before going to Gautier in 1972, he was pastor of Oakland Heights Church, Meridian.



Franklin D. Pollard will preach at one of six Sunday School leadership conferences to be held next summer at Glorieta and Ridge crest Baptist Conference Centers. Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, will be the guest preacher for the third week at Ridgecrest, July 28 - August 3. He also is host and Bible teacher for "At Home with the Bible" and "The Baptist Hour."



Dave Carter received an addition to his perfect attendance pin indicating his 33 years' perfect attendance in Sunday School on October 1. His wife, Myrtle F. Carter, has taught an Adult Sunday School Class for 25 years. Mr. and Mrs. Carter attend Pioneer Church, Route 1, Woodville, where O. B. Beverly is interim pastor and W. V. Carter is Sunday School director.



Mobile Chapel Delivered At Okahola

A custom built mobile chapel has been delivered to the Okahola Mission in Lamar Association near Purvis. The chapel, owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be used by the mission until a permanent building can be constructed. Jim Stagg is pastor of the mission which is sponsored by First Church, Purvis. The mobile chapel, 28 x 60 feet, was specially built by Bob Richards of Bob's Mobile Home Repair, Ocean Springs.



Clarke Missionary Alumni

A photo display of 32 Clarke alumni in active foreign mission service has been set up in the lobby of the Lott Fine Arts Building at the college. The display, for foreign missions emphasis during December, has created much interest among the student body. The picture of each missionary alumni is linked to a map of the field of service, with a ribbon. J. B. Costlow, director of religious activities, pictured, has in his more than 20 years at Clarke known many of these students who are now missionaries.

Staff Changes

Jerry Guess has resigned as pastor of the Fredonia Church, Union County, and is living at 309 Main St., New Albany. He is available for supply or pastorate and may be reached by phone (534-8687) at New Albany.

Steve Mooneyham is serving as minister of music and youth at Oak Grove Church in Prentiss. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Rice of Calhoun City, he is a Bible major at Clarke College and plans to attend Mississippi College next year.

Seattle (RNS) — The Washington State Supreme Court has ruled that public utilities may not pass along to their subscribers the costs of contributions to religious and charitable groups.

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

O	D	D	S	T	O	R	P	E	S	O
I	R	E	P	O	L	E	R	A	I	N
L	E	V	A	G	A	S	O	S	T	E
W	O	R	D	O	F	T	R	U	T	H
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G	A	T	E	R	I	O	T	S	O	L
S	I	N	A	A	L	O	R	D	S	T
A	L	A	R	H	E	L	I	A	N	S

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear" (Psa. 118:6).

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Only you can determine the amount of electricity you use. Electric power is a valuable resource, so conserve it whenever possible. A few tips:

Make sure your home is properly insulated . . . keep thermostat at 68 degrees in winter, 78 degrees in summer . . . conserve hot water and use appliances wisely. For a free folder on how to save, contact your nearest MP&L office.



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An extra special Christmas gift for an extra special woman? Try a spiritual development book written especially for, about, and by women.

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The Listening Woman I Am: Messages from God, Josephine Pile, \$1.50.

The Woman I Am: Looking Forward Through the Christian Past, Neil Bowen, \$1.50. Available through Baptist Book Stores.

Women's Missionary Union
Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention

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SCRAPBOOK



(RNS Photo)

Jesus, The Joy Of Two Worlds

Two worlds were present at Jesus' birth. The angels of God, and men on earth. The angels announced, "Salvation is come," And men rejoiced in God the Son.

Two worlds were present when Jesus died On Calvary's cross, Himself denied. The world of life in all its grace, And that of man, a fallen race.

Two worlds were present when Jesus rose In great triumph o'er all man's foes. The world eternal, their souls set free, And men on earth joined in with glee.

Two worlds were present when Jesus went. The Spirit from Heaven to earth He sent. The Spirit Divine, to man so nigh. The Son of God He'll glorify.

Let us then go and all men tell The story of love that frees from hell. That all may rejoice, both Heaven and Earth, Each time it happens, the miracle new birth.

—Bob Sanderson
Rocky Creek, Lucedale

God And I

How wide is our love,
Yours and mine,
How wide is our love?

How long is our love,
Yours and mine,
How long is our love?

How long is our love,
Yours and mine,
How long is our love?

Our love is as wide as the world is wide,
As wide as space can be.
Our love is as wide as the world is wide,
And it lasts through Eternity!
—Sarah Field Batson
Wiggins

And it lasts through Eternity!

No Room

The night was calm and still,
A great star shone
With a radiance
Bright as morning sun.
While shepherds watched their sheep
On the Judean hillside,
An angel suddenly appeared,
Saying, "Fear not, for behold,
I bring you good tidings—
For unto you is born
this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ
the Lord."

As the sky filled
with angelic music,
the shepherds left their flocks
to find the Christ Child.
Guided by the star's light
the lowly herdsmen
went to Bethlehem,
found Mary and Joseph, the Babe
in a stable
because there was no room
at the inn.

This joyous season
when we celebrate Christ's birth,
let us live Christmas every day
and never cry, "No room."

—Eunice Barnes
Pascagoula

Go! See The Child

Go, shepherds! See the child lying in the small stable meek and mild
Go, wise men! Follow that star
Wherever it stops, the Child and His family are.
Go, little boy! Play Him a song.
He will not dwell at this place for long.
Go, each of you, and tell this news,
Do not delay, or a moment lose.
As the most blessed night of ages fades
A warm Presence is near where this Child is laid;
The mother tenderly kisses her sleeping son
And waits for the morning as slowly it comes.
They arise and take the Babe on His way
But down through the ages this moment will stay.
Go, each of you! See the Child
Praise and worship His name — and after awhile
Each the Christmas story keep
Not only at Christmas, but every day of every week.

—Jeannie Byrd
Laurel

Divine Promise

It was something wrong the TV said
that caused the Christmas story to be read
directly from the Bible
at my house this Christmas season,
and in total truth our souls were fed.

I looked upon our starlit Christmas tree
where the little children romp with me,
and I catechized the one-year-old,
with ringlets, dancing eyes and happy smile.
"Who made you, little angel?" With a prod
her brother whispered, and she said, "Dad."

Again I feel the power of God's love
in the heavenly host hovering above
the Baby Jesus, when deep in that holy night,
Earth was blessed with treasure God caressed.
His coming was a prophecy fulfilled,
foretold many centuries then stilled.

Now my heart's lingering ache is stayed
and I find comfort today in the promise made
by the Son of God, and I know it is true,
for He came to save my world from sin:
Jesus is coming again.

—Violet Tackett
McComb



Life and Work Lesson

Meeting God In Christ

By Bill Duncan,
Long Beach, Calif.

Matthew 1:18-25; 4:17; 13:44-46
Jesus likens finding God to two men searching for wealth. One was plowing in the field and accidentally discovered buried treasure. The other was searching for a perfect pearl and found it. According to Charles Allen, Weatherhead suggested, the first man is like one outside the church and the second is like one inside the church.

People have so many unsatisfied hungers. They may live as the rich or the poor, but they have failed to possess that which satisfies their deepest needs. Some even go off on the wrong trails looking for the wrong things to satisfy. Many have become bitter, hopeless, and find life not worth living. Most people do not know what will satisfy them.

According to Paul the Apostle, when he discovered Jesus Christ and completely surrendered to Him, his life became one of satisfaction. All that he had once thought was wonderful became as garbage in comparison to Jesus Christ.

It is appropriate to conclude the study of the parables with the twin parables of the buried treasure and the pearl of great price. Christmas is about discovering who Jesus is and His supreme worth. If we can meet God in Christ at Christmas, we have something really to celebrate with joy and blessings.

The Discovery

Can you imagine a tenant farmer plowing in a field? In his laborious work, he finds no joy or pride. The land is hard to work and produces very little. He doesn't have the money to provide what his family needs. Life for him is a bitter disappointment. Suddenly his plow overturns a box of buried treasure. Carefully he hides the treasure and goes and buys the field. Of course, he has little to put down, but the field is worth it all.

With the treasure, he now has security and everything his family needs. He can't become a person of respect.

The second story is just as exciting. A man who enjoyed collecting beautiful pearls was never satisfied. Every pearl he possessed or saw had some flaw. But he kept on looking and hoping to find one with which he would be entirely satisfied. Then one day he saw a perfect pearl. The price was high, but

without hesitation he sold all he had and went and bought it.

Sometimes the world pictures religion as taking all the joy out of life. Instead, it is like finding a buried treasure or like finding a perfect jewel.

Finding Jesus and joy is like the two men who discovered their hearts' desires. The joy and abundance of the man who stumbled upon his fortune pictures the joy of men who unexpectedly discover God's gracious invitation in Christ. There is no way to find complete fulfillment for life except in Jesus Christ.

The Delight

Some interpreters think the central theme of the parables relates to the cost of the Kingdom. A person cannot possess it unless he is willing to give up everything else. This point is important, but not the most important.

The central issue is the joy that comes when one discovers the Kingdom of God. There is no indication that either man felt he was making a sacrifice. The thing each desired was worth far more than any wealth he already had.

Early in the fall children and adults begin to anticipate and look forward to Christmas. Everything in the church is built around the coming of Christ. The whole world rings the joy bells until the spirit of the Day grips the heart of the world.

What a joy it was for Joseph to meet God in Christ. He had become confused with the manner of Jesus' birth. Once Joseph discovered that the baby would be God in Christ he was satisfied and pleased. The effect was the fulfillment of prophecy. Because of his delight, Joseph was faithful to God and protective of Mary. Joseph had no sexual relations with Mary before Jesus' birth. The significance of the birth of Jesus delighted Joseph and the world.

The Duty

The message of Jesus in his earthly ministry was "Repent; for the Kingdom of Heaven is upon you." At long last, God was intervening in a world gone bad. A new reign was announced, one in which God would enter into a new relationship with His people.

The duty of man in order to meet God in Christ is to repent. Sin is serious to God and to man. The joy of Christ is in discovering that His name is Jesus and means "Yahweh is salvation." The

idea is that Jesus will save His people, not from Rome as they hoped, but "from their sins." The basic problem of a person is sin.

In the seventeenth century, the Puritans outlawed the observance of Christmas both in England and America. It is reported that some religious radicals have advocated dropping Christmas from the Christian calendar. This is not necessary. There

By Jackie C. Hamilton,
Highland, Meridian
John 1:1-5, 14-18

Every Christmas the old saying comes to mind: "The gift without the giver is bare." Indeed so as any of us could testify both as a giver and a receiver. We have at times made gifts without giving ourselves; we have received gifts with which we received little of the giver. May I make a plea that if we must give gifts without giving ourselves in sincere and loving interest, please do not do it at Christmas time.

Why this strange request? This lesson about "God's Greatest Gift" holds the answer. Our Christmas giving represents part of our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This birthday is so celebrated because in the coming of Jesus, God made his greatest gift to mankind; but that is still not the full answer to the question.

The point is that in making his supreme gift, God gave of himself in the Person of his only begotten Son. The gift is none other than the eternal, divine Word who "was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Since Christmas commemorates a gift like that, we must not debase it by any giving of ours in which we do not give ourselves.

Often the Christmas lesson involves the study of Matthew or Luke, who recorded the birth of Jesus as an historical event. This is natural, for the Christmas music, programs, pictures, newspaper and magazine articles, even church services deal with the re-

corded details of the birth and infancy of Jesus.

The Christ Child.

Christmas is preeminently the festival of the Christ Child. This lesson deals with the birth of Jesus as the incarnation of the eternal Word. Viewed with John in the Light of his Prologue (1:1-18), the birth of Jesus is not merely the advent of the founder of Christian religion. According to John, the birth of Jesus is the most stupendous event in human history.

In the Prologue of the fourth Gospel, Christ is introduced by his eternal, preincarnate designation, the Word. John took a well known noun and without defining it, unfolded the meaning he had given to it. In speaking of the eternal, divine Word, therefore, John identifies Jesus with the incarnation of him "who has ever been Active and Revealing Mind."

In verses 1-2, the author shows the relation of the Word to God by making three affirmations.

(1) The Word is declared to be eternal. Indeed the whole earthly career of Jesus represents but an interlude (like a visit with friends) in the life of One whose existence is "from everlasting to everlasting." In his Gospel, John has stated that at the point where God created everything, the Word "was." It is as though John were standing with his readers at the beginning of creation pointing back into eternity as he affirmed, "Back there, always, the Word was." Jesus Christ, then, is none other than the eternal Word dwelling temporarily in human form.

Carey Receives Affirmation Of Continued Accreditation

William Carey College has received affirmation of continued professional and academic accreditation, including the nursing and music programs, for another 10-year period.

The announcement was made today by Ralph Noonkester, president of the college, who received official word from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges meeting in Atlanta this week.

Letters from both the National League of Nursing and the National Association of Schools of Music confirmed the total picture of accreditation for the institution which has four

basic schools and a growing graduate program in education and in music.

The schools are: Liberal Arts, Music, Nursing, Business administered by Deans J. M. Ernest, Donald Winters, Flora Blackstock, and Steve Robinson. The graduate program is under the direction of Hugh Dickens.

According to Noonkester the college completed a self-study during the past year and hosted a 23-member accreditation committee in April.

Slander, like coffee, is usually handed to you without grounds.

The Word.

We now turn to John 1:14-18. This statement has the force of an exclamation. The wonder of all wonders is that the Word became flesh. This does not mean that the Word became a piece of flesh, but that He clothed himself in a person who was "flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone." Jesus was the only perfect human being, but He was a real human being.

"Dwelt" literally means "tabernacled" or "lived in a tent," suggesting the presence of God (as in the Tabernacle) and also the temporariness of his earthly sojourn. The incarnate Word, Jesus the Christ, exhibited a fullness of "grace and truth," referring to the self-giving, redemptive love of God to sinful men and to reality as against the unreal.

When Jesus speaks the truth, he represents reality as it is. As the embodiment of truth, He confronts men with reality itself, even the loving, divine Redeemer. Thus it is that men see in Jesus a splendor that perfectly revealed the heavenly Father.

The personal self-disclosure, setting forth God's grace and the reality of his presence, "came by Jesus Christ" (verse 17).

This is the central conviction of the Christian faith. In Jesus Christ, the eternal God has so revealed himself that it is possible for man to know God and live a life of fellowship with him.

Her First Born Son

A maiden found favor with God
She was picked to bear His child
When the angel appeared to Mary
She was puzzled and terrified.

The angel told her not to be afraid
She was chosen as God's favorite one
Who would conceive of the Holy Ghost
And be the mother of God's Son.

Joseph didn't want to embarrass Mary
But he didn't want her to be alone
He'd put her away privately
And get her out of his life.

But the angel of God told him
"Joseph, your love is not lost
The baby your Mary is carrying
Was conceived of the Holy Ghost."

When they made the trip to Bethlehem
Mary was heavy and the going slow
And when they finally got to town
There was no place to go.

They bedded down in a stable
Thinking they would rest 'til morn
But it just wasn't to be —
For that night our Lord was born.

Outside of town were shepherds
Keeping watch over their flock
When an angel of the Lord appeared
They were scared into a state of shock.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said
As God's light shone around them
"I have brought you good news
Tonight, our Savior was born in Bethlehem."

The shepherds left their flock
And hastened into town
Where they found the baby
In a manger, nestled down.

They knelt and worshipped Him
While Mary silently looked on
I'm sure she was beginning to realize
How precious, her first born son.

—Cleburne Lindsey
Sarah Church

Devotional

Instructions To Employees

By Raymond Lloyd, Pastor, First, Starkville

Recently I was given a copy of some printed instruction given to employees of a furniture company. It was dated 1870 and was signed by the owner. The second paragraph read as follows:

Each employee is expected to pay his titling, that is 10% of his annual income to the Church. No matter what one's income might be, you should not contribute less than \$25 per year to the Church. Each employee will attend Sacrament meeting and adequate time will be given to each employee to attend Fast Meeting. Also you are expected to attend your Sunday School. Men employees will be given one evening off each week for courting purposes. Two evenings each week if they go regularly to Church duties. After any employee has spent his 13 hours of labor in the store, he should then spend his leisure time in the reading of good books, and the contemplating of the Glories and building up of the Kingdom of God.

Some may say that was none of his business. However, I contend that it was his business, for really this expresses the interest and concern for the spiritual welfare of his employee. And is it not our business to be concerned about the spiritual well-being of others?

Some would say that this would never work today. Quite true. Such could not be written into most personnel policies, nor expressed in the same terms. However managers, owners, and bosses today can make a great impact on their employees and friends by the way they conduct their business, their social life, their personal life-style, and their stewardship to God.

No matter how you look at it, we all look up to our superiors, we respect the boss. He sets the standards. What kind of Christian standards do you set, and what expectations and hopes do you desire for your employees? God can be greatly honored by the standards you set for yourself, and which can be communicated to others.

The example you set, the witness you share, the concern you express, will no doubt be of far greater value in the building of strong Christian lives, than any policy one may write. But because one does not write it is no excuse for not living it, and sharing it and expressing it.

Uniform Lesson

The Word Became Flesh

corded details of the birth and infancy of Jesus.

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(2) In eternity, the Word is in fellowship with God. The fellowship is like our face-to-face communication. Although the Word stands distinct from God, He enjoys fellowship with God. The Word, John is saying, participates in the eternal life to the living God.

(3) The eternality of the Word and his eternal participation in the life of deity prepare us to understand that the Word is deity. Only God is eternal. All inferiority or derivation is excluded by this declaration of the deity of the Word. All that God is, the Word is.

Eternal Deity.

Out of these affirmations about Christ's eternal deity and other similar scripture passages, the Christian doctrine of the Trinity has arisen. This belief of Christians means that the one eternal God exists and reveals himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a description of our Creator — Savior — God as Christians have come to know him through Jesus Christ. It helps to remember that wherever any one of the three is present, dealing redemptively with the world and man, there the one eternal God is present and operative purposefully.

In verses 3-4, the Word is related to the world. Here, too, three affirmations are made.

(1) The Word was the sole divine agent of God's total creative activity. "All things were made by him."

(2) The Word is also the creative source of all the intellectual, moral, and spiritual life of mankind. "In him (the Word) was life."